## Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend claim 1 so that the current status of all claims is as follows:

## Listing of Claims:

1.      (currently amended)  A method for reading a micro-discrete indicia on a gemstone, comprising:

locating a user-created an apparatus-created unique micro-discrete indicia on said gemstone; and

reading said user-created apparatus-created unique micro-discrete indicia using near-field optics.


2.      (previously presented)  A method according to claim 1 wherein said micro-discrete indicia is initially located using an eye-loop or a microscope.


3.      (previously presented)  A method according to claim 1 wherein said micro-discrete indicia is located by using predetermined coordinates associated with the indicia on said gemstone.


4.      (original)  A method according to claim 3 where a document is provided that designates the appropriate coordinates of the micro-discrete indicia of said gemstone.


5.      (previously presented)  A method according to claim 4 wherein characteristics of said gemstone used to locate said indicia is selected from one of the following:

size, type of gemstone, facet, manufacturer, retailer, and owner.


6.      (original)  A method according to claim 1 wherein said micro-discrete indicia is used for authenticating an occasion of said gemstone.

7.     (previously presented)  A method according to claim 6 wherein said authentication identifies at least one of the manufacturer, owner, retailer, quality, and type of gemstone.

8.     (original)  A method according to claim 1 wherein said locating of said indicia on said gemstone is provided by scanning said gemstone.